

SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA COUNTY OF MONTEREY

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PRESS RELEASE

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Court and County Work Together to Minimize Disruptive Impact of North Wing Remodel Activities

The County of Monterey is in the process of extensively remodeling the North Wing of the Salinas Courthouse. As part of this process, during non-working hours, the County is removing and/or isolating certain hazardous materials in the Courthouse, including asbestos.

Assistant Presiding Judge Russell Scott has issued the following statement:

"The Court concurs with the County's long-established position that all measures must be taken to assure the safety of staff and the public, including closing down the building whenever air monitoring detects even slightly elevated levels of asbestos. The North Wing has been closed down only once due to a high asbestos reading. Other closures of the building, or parts of the building, have been due to slightly elevated readings. The Court stands side by side with the County in its commitment to provide a safe environment in the North Wing during remodeling. The Court is also dedicated to providing timely and uninterrupted access to justice for all constituents of Monterey County. Recently these priorities for the safety of the public and the timely and fluid administration of justice have been at odds. The County and the Court have consistently decided in favor of safety despite disruption to court services. We continue to work together in partnership with the County to find ways to reduce the disruption to the administration of justice caused by remodeling activity without compromising safety and/or justice."

The Court appreciates the continued patience of its employees, the public and all other users of the Courthouse. Any questions regarding remodeling work at the Salinas Courthouse should be directed to Maia Carroll, Communications Coordinator for the County of Monterey.